ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for binding a stack of sheets which can be carried out using a conventional perfect binding machine. A stack to be bound is positioned between a pair of end leafs. Molten hot melt adhesive is then applied to the edge of the stack and to the first and second end leafs, preferably using the perfect binding machine. An elongated spine member is then applied to the edge of the stack and is secured by the hot melt adhesive. The elongated spine member is preferably part of a configuration having a form factor that generally matches that of the conventional cover so that configuration, including the spine member, can be applied using the traditional perfect binder machine. The respective edges of the spine member are secured to the outer sheets of the end leafs by way of pressure sensitive adhesives. In one embodiment, the pressure sensitive adhesive is disposed on the edges of the spine member and covered by release sheets. After the spine structure has been secured by the hot melt adhesive, the user folds the edges of the spine structure away from the stack thereby revealing the release sheets. The release sheets are removed thereby exposing the pressure sensitive adhesive segments. The edges of the spine member are then pressed back against the stack causing the edges of the structure to be secured to the respective end leafs by the pressure sensitive adhesive. Preferably, a hardcover is secured using the end leafs and pressure sensitive adhesive.